

STATE OF IOWA  
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
UTILITIES BOARD

IN RE:  MIDAMERICAN ENERGY COMPANY	DOCKET NO. RPU-2014-0002
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**ORDER DOCKETING CASE, SETTING PROCEDURAL SCHEDULE  
AND INTERVENTION DEADLINE, AND  
SHORTENING DATA REQUEST RESPONSE TIME**

(Issued October 16, 2014)

On October 10, 2014, MidAmerican Energy Company (MidAmerican) filed with the Utilities Board (Board) a request for advance ratemaking principles that would apply for up to 162 MW of wind generation. MidAmerican calls the project Wind IX.

MidAmerican asked for expedited review, including a request that the Board issue a final order no later than January 15, 2015. MidAmerican said that if Wind IX is approved by that date, MidAmerican will be able to take full advantage of the federal production tax credit, which MidAmerican said is a prerequisite for the economics of Wind IX. (MidAmerican “Request for Approval of Ratemaking Principles,” pp. 9-10).

Iowa Code § 476.53 provides that when defined new electric generation is to be constructed by a public utility, the Board shall specify in advance, by order issued after a contested case proceeding, the ratemaking principles that will apply when the costs are included in electric rates. MidAmerican’s expansion falls within the defined class of new electric generation eligible for advance ratemaking principles.

The Board has reviewed the application and will docket it for investigation and set an intervention deadline. As noted earlier, MidAmerican requested that the Board conduct an expedited review of the application. The Board will set an expedited procedural schedule.

The Board will also shorten the time for responding to discovery requests from seven to three days to facilitate MidAmerican's requested expedited time schedule. 199 IAC 7.15(2). While the time for response is being shortened, the Board understands that these deadlines may not always be feasible because of the volume or type of information requested. The Board expects the parties to act in good faith during the discovery process so that the deadlines set forth in the procedural schedule can be met.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:**

1. An investigation is initiated with respect to the application for determination of advance ratemaking principles filed by MidAmerican Energy Company on October 10, 2014, pursuant to Iowa Code § 476.53. This matter is identified as Docket No. RPU-2014-0002, a formal contested case proceeding. The expenses reasonably attributable to this investigation will be assessed to MidAmerican in accordance with Iowa Code § 476.10 (2013).
2. The deadline to file a petition to intervene in this proceeding shall be October 31, 2014.
3. The following procedural schedule is established:
  - a. Consumer Advocate and any intervenors shall file prepared direct testimony, with underlying workpapers and exhibits, on or before

November 14, 2014. If a party refers to a data request or response in its prepared testimony, the data request or response shall be filed as an exhibit.

b. MidAmerican shall file rebuttal testimony, with underlying workpapers and exhibits, on or before November 26, 2014.

c. A joint statement of issues shall be filed on or before December 3, 2014.

d. Any party that chooses to file a prehearing brief may do so on or before December 5, 2014.

e. A hearing shall be held beginning at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17, 2014, for the purpose of receiving testimony and the cross-examination of all testimony. The hearing shall be held in the Board's hearing room at 1375 E. Court Avenue, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. The parties shall appear one-half hour prior to the time of the hearing for the purpose of marking exhibits. Persons with disabilities requiring assistive services or devices to observe or participate should contact the Utilities Board at (515) 725-7334 at least five days in advance of the scheduled date to request that appropriate arrangements be made.

f. Parties may file simultaneous briefs on or before December 29, 2014.

4. In the absence of objection, all underlying workpapers shall become a part of the evidentiary record of these proceedings at the time the related testimony and exhibits are entered into the record.

5. In the absence of objection, all data requests and responses referred to in oral testimony or on cross-examination, which have not been previously filed, shall become a part of the evidentiary record of these proceedings. The party making reference to the data request shall file the data request and response with the Board at the earliest possible time.

6. In the absence of objection, when the Board has called for further evidence on any issue and the evidence is filed after the close of the hearing, the evidentiary record will be reopened and the evidence will become part of the record two days after the evidence is filed with the Board. All evidence filed pursuant to this paragraph shall be filed no later than two days after the close of the hearing in this proceeding.

7. Pursuant to 199 IAC 7.15(2), the time to respond to data requests is shortened from seven days to three days.

**UTILITIES BOARD**

/s/ Elizabeth S. Jacobs

/s/ Nick Wagner

ATTEST:

/s/ Joan Conrad  
Executive Secretary

/s/ Sheila K. Tipton

Dated at Des Moines, Iowa, this 16<sup>th</sup> day of October 2014.